

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 40

TITLE**WESTERN TRACKING AND BIOMONITORING COLLABORATION: RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS****TRACK****Network Content****OBJECTIVES**

Participants will learn about the objectives of the WTBC; priorities selected for biomonitoring; and proposals for regional capacity building and pilot project funding.

SUMMARY

The goal of the WTBC is to prevent excessive exposures to chemicals in the environment, improve laboratory methods used to assess exposures, and develop interventions to mitigate environmentally related effects or diseases. The objectives of a one-year supplemental award from the CDC to the WTBC was to 1) assess the current capacity of the WTBC to perform tracking or biomonitoring functions; 2) assess and collate common exposure or environmental interests and priorities among the twelve western states; and 3) explore the potential of leveraging existing laboratory capacity to perform regional biomonitoring. Through meetings and novel cross-dialogue between epidemiologists and laboratory professionals, the WTBC assembled biomonitoring priorities and an assessment tool which summarized regional laboratory capacity, field feasibility, exposure assessment, health effects, epidemiologic interest and surveillance considerations, relationships to action or policy proposals, public/community concerns, and funding availability. The WTBC also came to consensus on issues of quality control, regulatory issues, and ethical project management. We will discuss the collaborative project process which lead to recommendations on high priority biomonitoring compounds such as heavy metals, mercury, and emerging pollutants, as well as final recommendations on capacity building and pilot program funding.

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